criticality by June 1996 and December 1996 respectively and Rajasthan 3 & 4 by November 1996 and May 1997 respectively. Schedules for other units will be consistant with commencement scheduled of construction.

Export/Import of Heavy Water

4855. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is self sufficient in the production of Heavy Water or imports the same for our nuclear programme;

(b) what are the names of the countries from which India imports heavy water;

(c) whether India also exports Heavy Water; if so, to which countries;

(d) what is the total requirement of heavy water in our country; and

(e) what is the average unit price of heavy water ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) The indigenous production of heavy water is adequate to meet the requirements of the operating and the new pressurised heavy water reactors under construction. Some surpluses are also expected.

(b) India does not import any heavy water at present.

(c) India has signed a contract with Republic of Korea for supply of 100 Tonnes of heavy water, for shipment during 1998.

(d) Each operating 220 MWe pressurised heavy water reactor requires on an average approximately 250 MTs of heavy water as initial inventory and 12 MTs of heavy water in a year as make-up.

(e) It is not in the national interest to disclose the cost of production.

Effect of Gatt Agreement on the Cost of Treatment of Ailments

4856. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what percentage of Anti-biotics Anti-leprosy drugs, Tranquilisers, Cardio-Vascular drugs, Anti-Diabetics and Contraceptive drugs in use in India fall in the category of patented drugs; and

(b) how far the cost of treatment of the respective ailment is likely to increase with the enforcement of Dunkel Draft of GATT agreement, as adopted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) To the extent information is available, it is estimated that the share of drugs covered by patents abroad which are currently sold in the Indian market is less than 15% in any of the categories referred to in the question.

(b) The prices of drugs (including patented drugs) which are currently in the market will not be affected on account of the GATT accord.

Rising Prices of Drugs

4857. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of drugs are constantly rising and quality deteriorating;

(b) if so, what are the safeguards provided to a consumer in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that pharmaceutical companies are allowed to sell their drugs under their trade name which number about 5000 whereas there are only 260 basic drugs; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to control the spurt in brand names ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) No. Sir. The prices are regulated in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 1987. The quality of drugs is required to be in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.